



**Open Space Committee  
Town Hall Annex, First Floor  
Minutes 2/23/2017**

**Present:** Brian Kelder, Ann LeRoyer, Wendy Richter, David White, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Jane Auger, Kelsey Cowen, Nat Strosberg

**Absent:** Teresa DeBenedictis, John Pickle, Elena Bartholomew

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

January minutes were reviewed and accepted with revisions.

**New Town Committee: Public Land Maintenance Work Group**

Open Space Committee was invited to send a representative to the work group to coordinate maintenance of public spaces. Other groups represented on the working group include: Town Manager's Office, Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, Planning Department, Park and Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Finance Committee, and resident at large. OSC ideas for projects include clean up activities associated with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Minuteman Bikeway; having local businesses adopt a section of town brooks, regular bikeway maintenance, etc.

**25th Anniversary of Minuteman Bikeway Committee**

Nat reported that event dates associated with the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Minuteman Bikeway will be ready in March with the first event happening in May. The activities will be mostly in the summer months. Ideas from the OSC include a clean-up of No Name Brook, having Russ Cohen lead foraging event.

**Take A Walk/Connecting Arlington's Open Spaces**

Kelsey and Nat will meet before the March meeting to work on map edits in Nat's Adobe software. Ann will coordinate with Ed Gordon to come up with potential dates for a Walking in Arlington group walk using the Take A Walk routes, hopefully in late April or May. Ed Gordon will be leading a walk on April 22<sup>nd</sup> along Mill Brook in the Heights. The OSC continued working on the Heights map, drawing out possible routes on the northern side of Mass Ave.

**Picture Post Project**

John is developing an informational article for the Arlington Advocate and outreach to ACMI, Your Arlington, etc. It will be included on OSC section of the Town website.

**Open Space and Recreation Plan (2015-2022)**

Wendy made and will share a Google Form that will be used to begin tracking OSC projects. The form links info entered to a coded spreadsheet to folders in Google Drive associated with each OSC Project. Brian made and will share a master key in Excel for project tracking that was developed based on Table 9.1 from the recent Open Space Plan. They are exploring to what extent Google Sheets can emulate Excel in its ability to link data.

**OSC Website hits**

Ann and Nat will follow-up with Joan Roman, Town webmaster, to begin tracking hits to the OSC website and the Experiencing Arlington app.

**CPA Project Applications FY 2018**

Community Preservation Committee are still contemplating proposals to show the Finance Committee on March 1. Public hearings and Town Meeting recommendations will follow.

**Updates on current CPA projects**

Spy Pond erosion control – David reported that Con Com has completed phase one and is submitting another proposal for phase two for implementation of recommendations.

**State Grants**

Arlington hasn't applied for many state grants, which require an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan, but this spring Con Com is pursuing a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for improvements to Spy Pond Park trails and access to the pond.

**2018 EcoFest Preparation (Nat)**

No 2017 EcoFest, but a planning group is already considering 2018 EcoFest. Google Doc to be shared for people to discuss who should be at the table to plan the event.

**News and Reports**

Hunt for Environmental Planner is continuing to fill a new position for planning and conservation commission assistance.

Town-wide clean up April 30<sup>th</sup> and the Mill Brook subgroup is planning a clean-up at Wellington Park.

Old Schwamb Mill to hold a beer fest in October to include activities, scavenger hunts, music. Potential audience for Take-A-Walk maps.

Submitted by Kelsey Cowen

**2017 Meeting Dates (4th Thursdays)**

March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22